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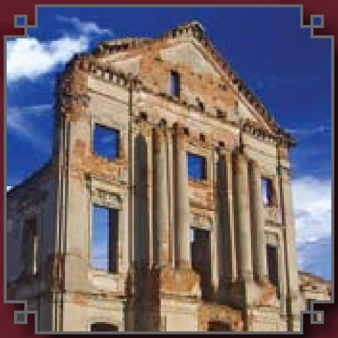
Ancestral Palaces and Manors











The spirit of luxury and splendor


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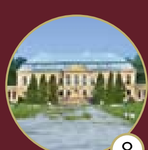

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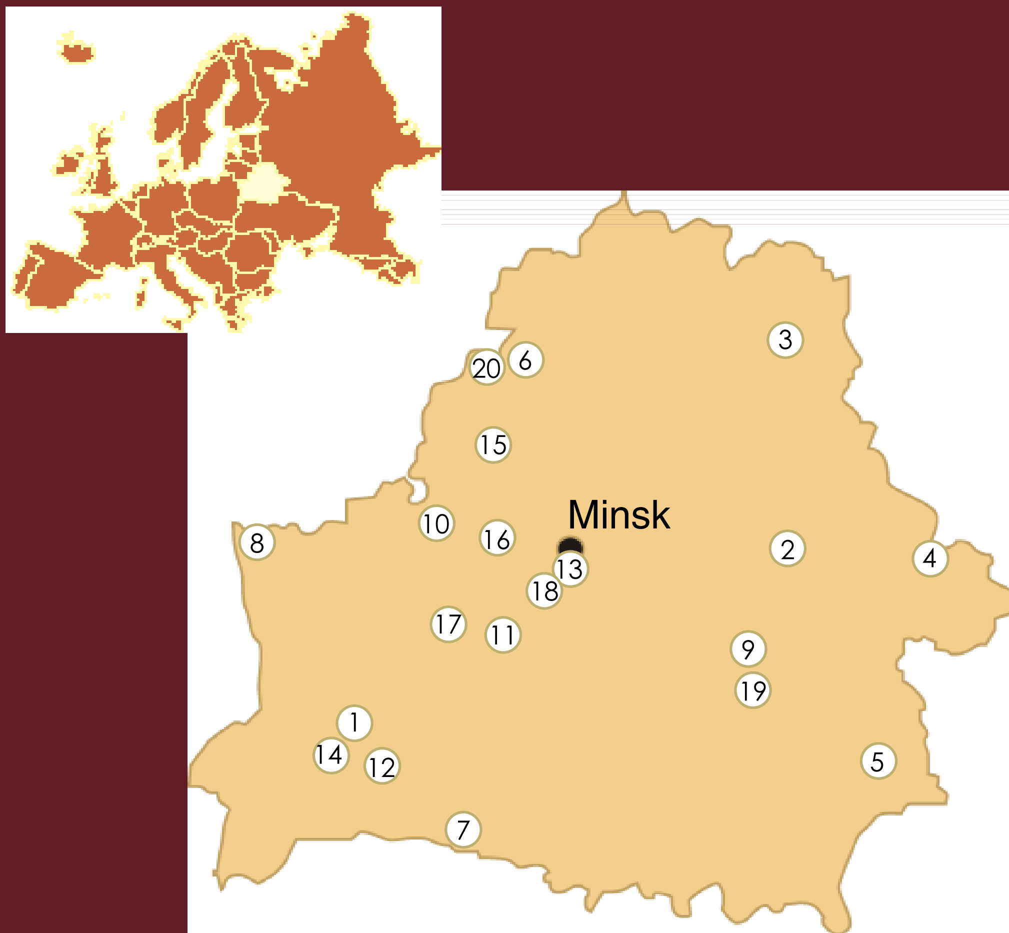

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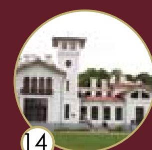

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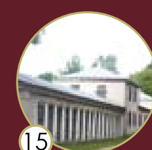



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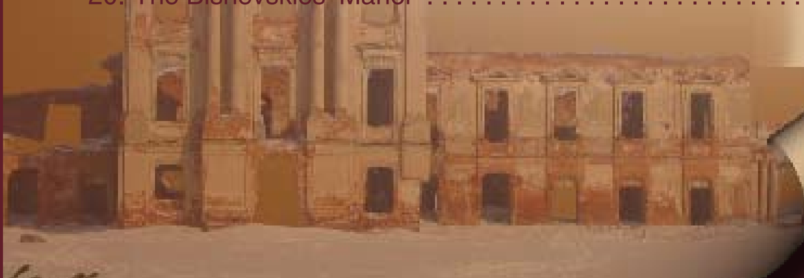

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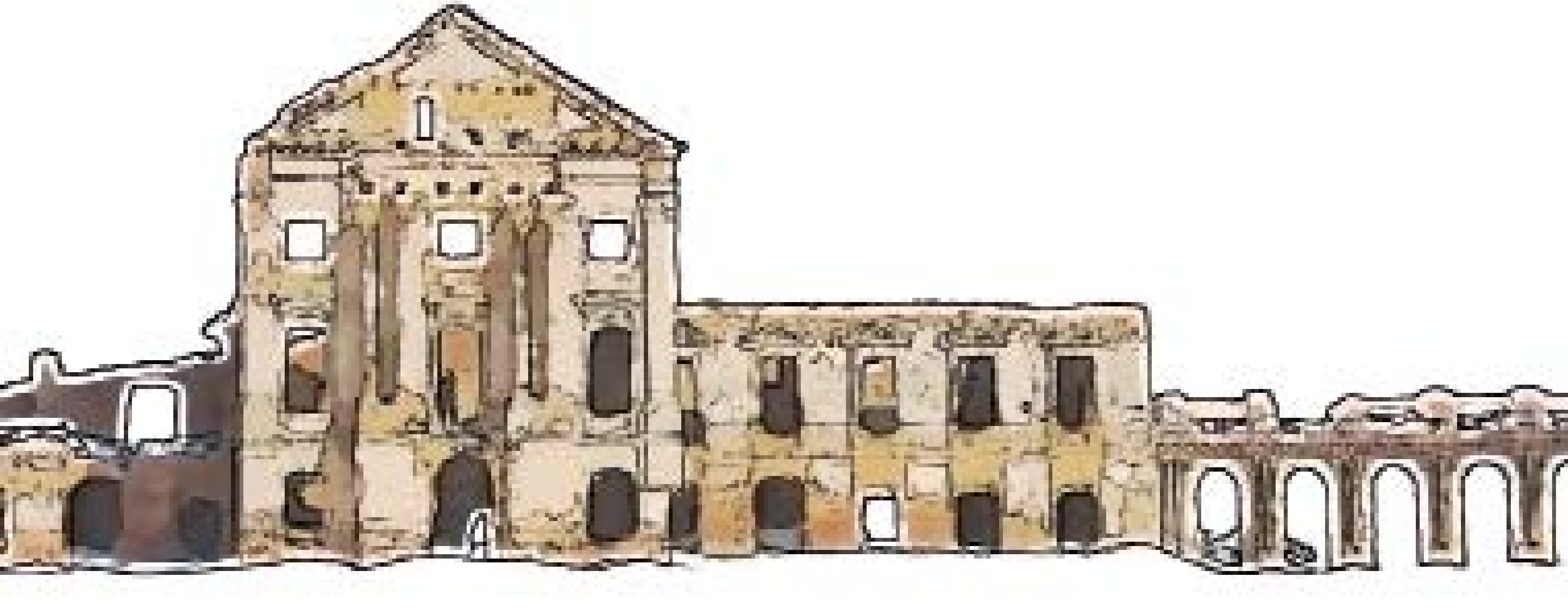
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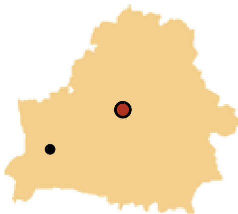


Dear travelers!

Belarus is a country where the cultures of the West and the East blend together harmonically. It was a land of the Polish gentlemen, Russian noblemen, grand Belarusian families. The Sapiehas, the Rumyantsevs, the Paskievichs, the Chapskis, the Tyzenhauses… Their splendid manors, palaces and mansions were the places where the Enlightenment spirit was lingering and the most educated people of that time were gathering. The owners took pride in their elaborate paintings, arms and antiquities collections, rich libraries and the greenhouses full of the carefully nurture exotic species. We invite you to have a look at the gems of the Belarusian architecture of the XVII – beginning of the XX century, take a walk along the shadowy alleys of the old manor parks and fill your souls with the light of the History. The sweet memories of the blue-eyed Belarus will remain with you forever!

The National Tourism Agency
of the Republic of Belarus





Ruzhany,
Pruzhany district,
Brest region,
Minsk - 247 км,
Brest - 176 км





The Palace complex in Ruzhany today looks like the ruins of the ancient temple. But long ago the family manor of the powerful Sapegas built in XVII century was called The Belarusian Versailles.

The most significant contribution to history was made by Lev Sapega. He was educated in Leipzig University and at the age of 33 he was appointed to the post of Chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Lev Sapega was the head of the working commission on development of the Statute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 1588 which was in fact the state constitution and remained in force for almost 300 years, till 1840.

Initially an unapproachable fortress built in Ruzhany in 1617 had four-level subterrenes where military arsenal, food supplies and important documents were kept. According to one of the versions the underpass connected the palace to the church in Synkovichi and the castle in Kossovo. During the Northern was the palace was sacked and almost destroyed. In 1784-1788 the architect Yan Samuel Bekker under the instruction of Alexander Sapega created a real wonder on the place of the former citadel.



On this page (top to bottom):

The The main building of the Ruzhany palace is cpnstructed in Baroque style but the traces of the fashionable in that time Classicism can be seen in its exterior.

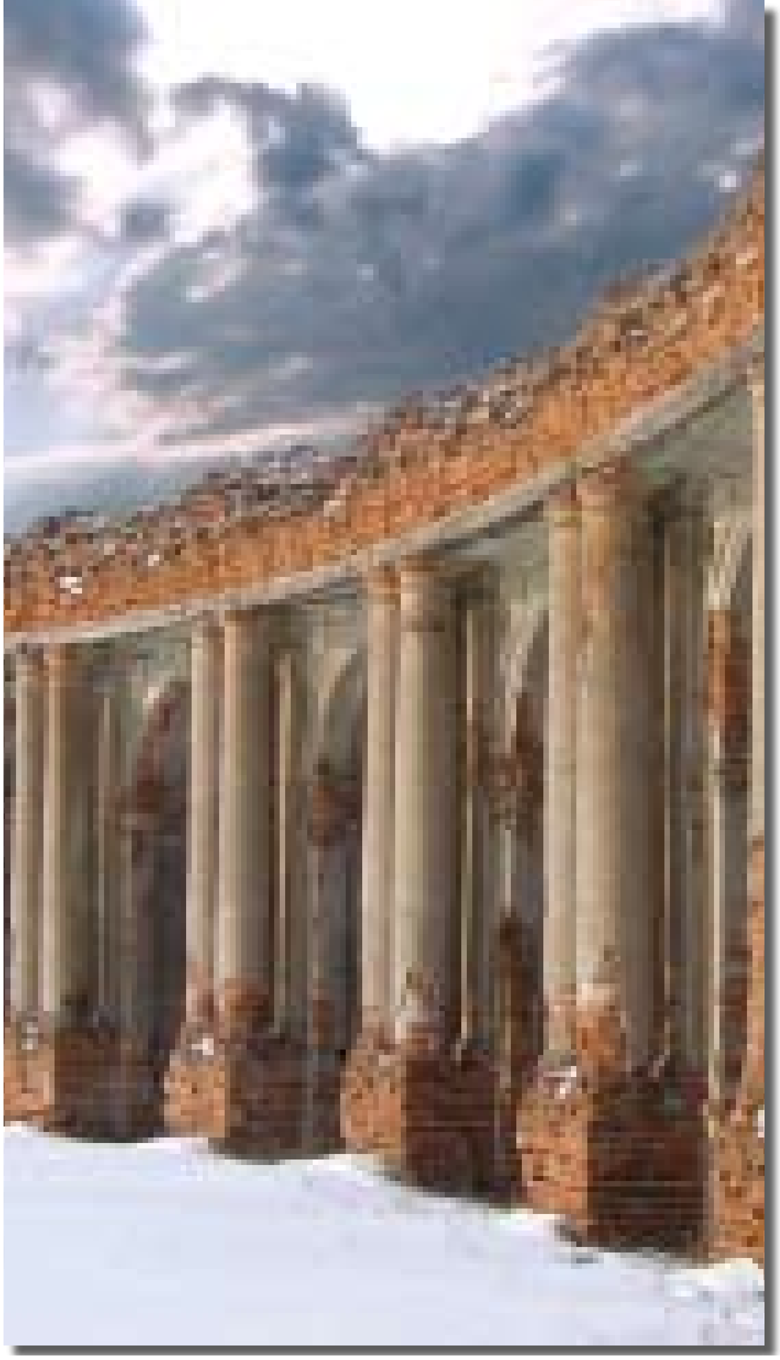
The Triumphal arc of the residence emphasized the majesty and power of the Sapegas.

The court of honor of the Ruzhany residence was closed in a circle and its square amounted to 1,5 ha.

The entry gates of the new residence were constructed in the form of the triumphal arch decorated with the carved cartouche and the fumed oak swags. Semicircular arcades stretching from the wings of the main building linked it with side buildings and an entry gates with two-sided adjoining annexes. The intricate sculpture details and the opulently decorated windows made the building look posh. The English park that surrounded the manor was only emphasizing its stunning look. Ruzhany palace was famous for its picture gallery, greenhouse with lots of exotic plants and a theatre that was perfectly equipped for those times. The largest library of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania gave grounds for a special pride of its owners.

In 1831 Sapega took part in the revolt and the Emperor Nikolai I ordered to confiscate the property of the family. Later on the palace was given to the Jewish manufacturer who created a weaving factory there. During World War I due to the oversight of the factory laundresses the fire destroyed several walls. The World War II completed the devastation of the palace.

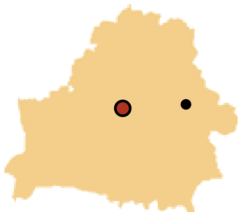
Today the survived parts of the palace, arcade, entry gates with an oak cartouche and swag remind of the bygone splendor. And the alluring myth about the buried treasures of the mighty magnates that are told to be hidden under the ruins continues to heat the imagination of the adventurers...





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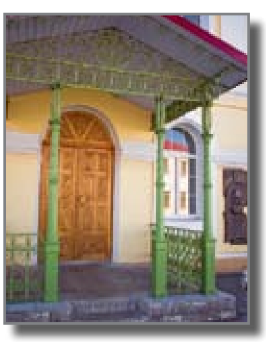
The importance of the Sapegas family is proved by the fact that Ruzhany was visited by many famous people among whom was the King Stanislaw August Ponyatowski who stayed there in 1784.



Mogilev,
Mogilev region,
Minsk - 203 км







The palace of the Bishop George Konissky, an outstanding orthodox personality, is an interesting example of the late XVIII century architecture. The building lets the visitors imagine the way of life of the high priesthood two centuries ago.

The palace was built in 1762-1785 according to the project of the prominent Vilnius architect Yan Glaubits. The palace exterior has some typical features of the Baroque style such as the plastic art in the facades, lots of niches and intricate cases. The building has a special roof – a high one of an unusual shape that suits the style of the facades.

The lay-out of the complex was planned to be symmetrical. The palace itself was situated in the town centre with two monastic cells to the left and to the right which formed the grand court. The cells were connected to the entrance gates by a laced metal fencing.

The palace building that fascinated the coevals with its splendor represents a compact rectangle with the ledges-projections in the corners. The lobby and the spacious reception hall were located on the ground floor. The first floor was occupied by the owner's personal rooms, a study and a library. The second attic floor, located in the middle of the palace consisted of the small rooms created for the staff and guests.

The building has partly survived up to nowadays. It blends harmonically into the architectural ensemble of Mogilev and attracts the locals as well as the numerous guests of one of the oldest Belarusian cities.



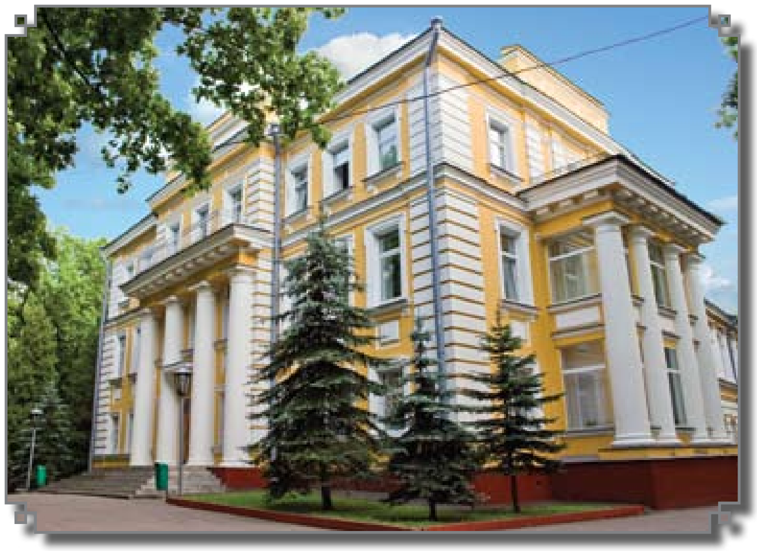
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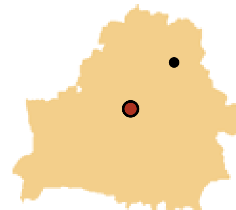
The Bishop's palace main façade that remained intact. The time has changed the look of the building but even today it amazes with its beauty and harmony in details.

The memorial plaque located on the wall of the palace in Mogilev has the image of the owner, bishop Georgy Konisski, on it.

The wooden door of the main façade is semi-antique.

The metal trellis with the intricate ornament adorns the entry gates of the residence like 200 years ago.





Vitebsk,
Vitebsk region,
Minsk - 275 км

This palace witnessed the last 150 years of the ancient Vitebsk. The building is genuinely unique; it was the residence of all the governors of the Vitebsk province. The Russian writer I. Lazhechnikov held the post of Vice-governor for several years (1853-1854).

The palace was built in late XVIII century (1772) on the high bank of Western Dvina according to the canons of the Russian Classicism. The main entrance is framed by the high slender columns. The building overlooking the river is a two-storied one and is moderately decorated. The only adornment is large arch windows. The construction with its austere silhouette and the laconic forms groups splendidly into the urban landscape.

Some interesting facts can be told about the history of the palace. When Napoleon was moving towards Moscow he chose this residence as the place of his staying. The palace witnessed the celebration of his 43rd birthday on August, 3 (August 15 on the New Style) 1812.

The palace appeared in the movement during the October Revolution when the Military and Revolutionary Committee held the meetings here. It proclaimed Soviet power in the town and the province. It also hosted the first Vitebsk provincial conference of the Russian Social-democratic Workers' Party. In June, 1919 M. Kalinin made a speech at the extended session of Vitebsk provincial executive committee.







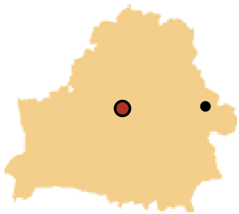
On this page (top to bottom):

Vitebsk palace is unique for it has never belonged to any of the honorable families. The residence was occupied by the city governors.

There is a monument dedicated to the Soviet soldiers-liberators just opposite the palace.

The chilling freshness of the fountain is saving during hot afternoons.

The exposition of Vitebsk Historical museum.



Krichev,
Mogilev region,
Minsk - 310 км,
Mogilev - 90 км







The Potyomkin Palace in Krichev is more than 200 years old. The reconstruction of this awesome monument of Belarusian architecture that was carried our lately took more than 20 years.

In XVIII century Ekaterina II presented "Krichev eldership" with 14274 peasants to her favourite, count Potyomkin and then the construction of the palace began. The historians argue about the exact date of its erection but it is known for sure that it was a large-scale and short-term project that was due to be finished by the arrival of the Empress. At first an outstanding Russian architect Ivan Starov (the author of the Taurida Palace in Saint-Petersburg) was building the palace according to the rules of Classicism. The building was symmetrical with a suite of rooms and an oval hall that was literally pushing the walls into the courtyard.

Grigory Potyomkin was an outstanding person. The Krichevsky Palace is a proof for it. The unique building totals the area of 1129 sq.m, every 90-centimeters thick wall is a bearing one. The interiors of more than 40 halls were adorned with moldings, fireplaces and stoves decorated by the original tiles.

At the bird's eye view one can see that the palace is E-shaped. It was the way the favourite of the Empress to show his fidelity to Ekaterina. The sovereign visited the palace on January 19, 1787 during her regular trip to new provinces.

The owner of the house soon settled in Crimea and the residence was handed down to the new owner, the representative of the old family, Yan Golynski, who decided to rebuild the palace after the fire. It was then when some pseudogothic elements appeared in the exterior decoration. The toothed faceted pylons adorned the building, the window apertures were turned into the pointed arches and the castellation in the upper level of the tower gave the whole construction the look of the medieval tower. In the middle of the XIX century the gates were Egyptian pyramid stylized.

A splendid park is an infinite part of the ensemble. It was planted when the owner was Potyomkin and its territory amounted to 10 ha. Lime trees, maples, oaks and cades were the basic trees of the flora. The legend tells that this landscape design masterpiece was created by the well-known gardener Guld, the author of the Tauride palace and the parks in Bakhchisaray and Kherson.

Today the museum is located in the palace. A special ancient atmosphere is created by the greenhouse, the manager's house, the Knight's hall. The visitors can study the history of Krichev since its appearance. The palace possesses a unique library that consists of the rare volumes. The most valuable book is "The Vow of Spirit" by Simeon Polotsky.



On this page (top to bottom):

The Krichev Potyomkins' residence stroked imagination of the contemporaries with its architecture as well as the stunning illumination that lightened the courtyard till the dawn.

There are no written references remained on what the interiors looked like. What is known for sure is that they were pompous and rich. That is why the reconstructed residence is decorated in the XVIII century style.

There is also a Civil Registry Office situated in the ancient halls. It is a good sign to effect a marriage here.

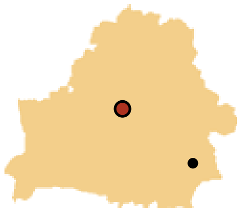




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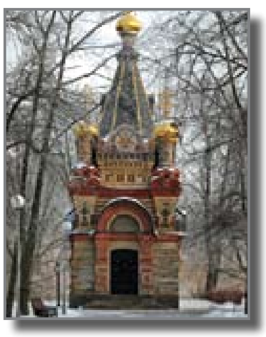
The inner yard of Krichev palace with the flaring circular hall. This method was a trademark of a famous architect Starov, the author of the residence.

The façade of the building decorated by the pseudo gothic elements – a castellated upper part of the building, faceted pylons and lancet windows.



Gomel,
Gomel region,
Minsk - 291 км









The place of the palace formerly belonged to the Iron Age stronghold, the ancient Gomel citadel and the medieval castle with the mighty walls. Today this historical place on the steep bank of Sozh is occupied by the Rumyantsevs-Paskevichs' palace, surrounded by the scenic park.

The construction of the palace began in 1777 when Ekaterina II presented her favourite, the Field Marchal Petr Rumyantev-Zadunajsky with the "Gomel village". In XIX century the Rumyantsevs weren't able to pay out enormous debts and sold the palace to the state. In 1834 it was bought out by the famous Russian military leader Ivan Paskevich. The new owner was known for his military achievements as well as for the rich collections of various pieces of art and antiquities. Some parts of his collections were brought to Gomel.

At present it is one of the most popular tourist attractions. The unique complex includes a palace, St. Peter and Paul's Cathedral with a chapel next to it and a family burial vault of the Paskevichs. What is curious about the chapel is that it was the first monument in the republic to be restored after the Great Patriotic war.

The exposition of the complex has over 150 thousand exhibits, among which there are genuine rarities. Unfortunately, many of the valuables vanished. Yet, lucky findings sometimes happen. For example, the bronze goddess Mir was brought from Voronezh. It is a complete copy of the sculpture by the Italian sculptor Antonio Canove. The goddess was reproduced in bronze by the Saint-Petersburg master Deput-Malinovsky and weighed 35 poods. Only in our times the palace reacquired a real treasure, the copy of the Gospel by Peter Mstislavets, which dates back to 1575.

It was not so long ago when six beautiful statues that used to decorate the upper circle of the palace were returned back. The original sculptures were lost after the October revolution and today the palace is adorned by their compilations. The guests are met by the heroes of the Ancient Greece – Aphrodite, Athena, Ares, Bacchus, Nymph and the ancient dramatist Euripidis.

The palatine park is a magnificent example of landscape art of the late XVIII –early XIX century. The landscape design as well as the reconstruction of the palace was made by Polish architect Adam Idzkovsky. He also created the painting of the palace, which is today can be seen on the Belarusian banknote of 20 thousand roubles.



On this page (top to bottom):

The traces of the early classicism can be seen in the main façade architecture of the Rumyantsev's-Paskevich's palace.

The chapel-vault of the Paskevichs is decorated affluently with lots of details of the unusual form.

The inner decoration of the palace. The reconstructed interiors of the XVIII-XIX centuries help to feel the spirit of time.

Today there are 300 items of Paskevich's collection exhibited in the museum, among which there are the works of famous painters, sculptures, bronze clocks and chandeliers.

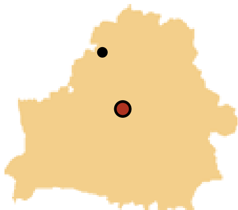




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At a birds-eye view the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral looks like a gaunt cross.

The Rumyansev's-Paskevich's residence. The palace was completed by Ivan Paskevich. This person was admired by his contemporaries; even Alexander Pushkin wrote rapt poems about him.



Postavy,
Vitebsk region,
Minsk - 160 км,
Vitebsk - 245 км









The Tizenhaus palace was the centre of the enlightenment and science in the XVIII century. Its construction started in 1733-1785 by Antony Tizenhaus. He was one of the most forward-looking representatives of his time. He held correspondence with Jean Jacques Rousseau and was told to be the close friend of the last King of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Stanislaw August Poniatowski.

While being the Minister of the Economy and Finance, Tizenhaus carried on some economic, cultural and urban reforms. There were several manufactures organized in Postavy, the schools were opened for the villagers' children and the local theatre gained the reputation of the best one in the country. This person devoted himself to turning Postavy into the lovely and cozy place but didn't have time to finish the construction of his own palace.

It was only in 1814 when the new owner of Postavy, Konstantin Tizenhaus finally managed to complete the construction. The large stone building was constructed keeping up with the best traditions of the Classicism and was U-shaped on the plan. Konstantin, a devoted scientific enthusiast, organized zoological, mineralogical and ethnographic studies in the northern part of the manor. There were ballet and laic schools, the paper and sash manufactures in the palace.

But Konstantin's special passion was ornithology. He created the large ornithological museum in his manor that soon became one of the most beautiful and rich in the Eastern Europe. The collection of the stuffed birds from Belarus, Lithuania and Ukraine had been gathered for 40 years and was enormous even by the today's counts – it amounted to 3000 exhibits! The scientist was also the author of the numerous works on ornithology.

There were luxurious picture galleries in the palace where more than 600 paintings were exposed. They say that the collection included the original pieces by Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt and Rubens. The walls in this part of the palace were decorated by the molding and expensive mantelpieces. But the owner preferred to live in the modest rooms, located in the western part of the mansion.

The family palace of Tizenhaus was surrounded by the splendid garden with the picturesque ponds, numerous alleys and exotic plants.

In this day and age the whole net of the long underground tunnels was found under the basement of the palace. At the moment it is being reconstructed and the museum is planned to the located there. But even without the museum the palace is very attractive for the tourists. Its looks remained practically unchanged and the territory of the manor is decorated with the white marble sculptures, created by the Italian masters.



On this page (top to bottom):

Beautiful and austere building of the Tizenhauses' palace was one of the scientific and cultural centers in Belarus in the XIX century.

The main entrance decorated by the Tizenhauses coat of arms.

The living residential part of the palace was modestly decorated as opposed to the picture galleries and cabinets.

The plaque situated near the Tizenhauses' palace tells that the residence is included into the list of the historical-cultural valuables of the Republic of Belarus.

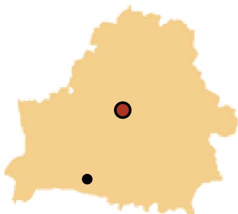




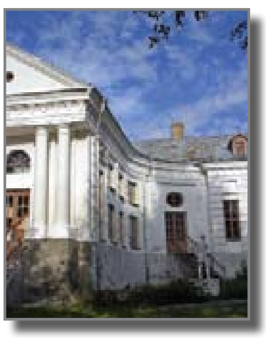
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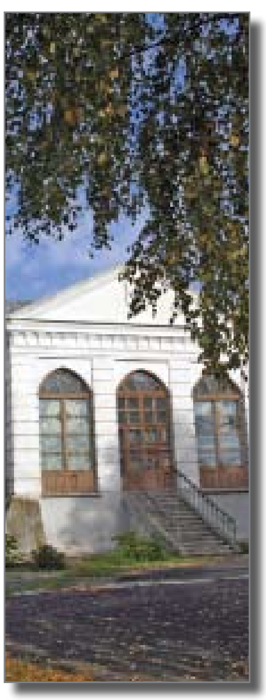
The residence was once surrounded by the splendid park with various exotic plants, fountains and picturesque ponds. The elegant sculptures are still admired by the visitors.

The exterior of the residence is austere and elegant. It is known that the palace was frequently visited by the famous people, among whom was Nikolai II.









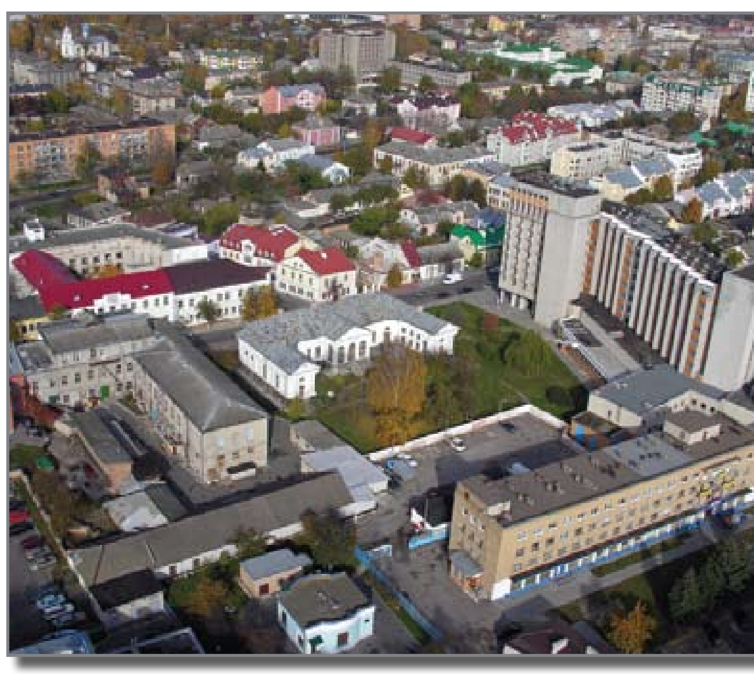
There is a splendid and unusual palace remained in the old Pinsk. It was built in 1790 to the order of the prosperous financier Mateush Butrimovich who was Pinsk ambassador to the famous "Four-year Sejm of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth" (1788-1792) when the second partition of the powerful state was carried out.

According to the legend the first stone in the foundation of the future construction was laid by the King of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth Stanislaw August Ponyatowsky.

The building is unique due to its architecture of a transitional type from Baroque to Classicism. Concave curved corners and immaculately decorated windows made the construction look unusual. According to the idea of the architect Shildhaus, the central part of the building where the main oval hall is situated is pushed to the front. In XVII century this hall led to the large terrace elegantly adorned with lots of details.

Three buildings of the U-shaped residence were facing the river Pina. The middle building consisted of the show rooms where the balls were held and the other two included the living rooms and cabinets. The main entry with the stoop as well as four side entries with the stairs leading to the living rooms is well-preserved.

The palace magnificent interior was ruined in the big fire of 1901. Many valuables were lost: paintings of Dutch masters, ancient Venetian chandeliers, oriental carpets, tapestries and the collection of Slutsk belts. Yet still the palace is one of the gems of the XIX century architecture that managed to preserve its fantastic aura.



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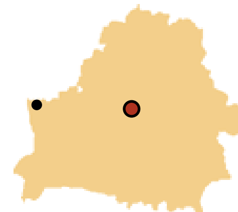
The façade of the palace overlooking the river Pina is well-preserved. It was once the place where the charming balls and receptions took place.

The building looks original thanks to the arched corners.

The side stairs led straight to the living rooms.

The Butrimovich's palace at a bird's eye view. The construction blends harmonically into the architecture of the town.





Svyatsk,
Grodno district,
Hronda region,
Minsk - 291км,
Grodno - 23 км

The Palace of the magnates Valovichs attracts the history-lovers as well as the curious travelers. It was constructed in 1779 by Italian architect Giuseppe Sacco in the Baroque style with the elements of Classicism.

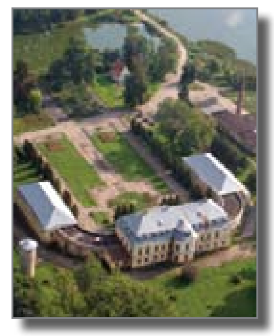
The residence consists of three buildings: one central part and two wings. There was an octal hall and a front stairs in the central part of the building and the small halls and studies were situated in the wings. Pilasters, semicircular windows, and the roof of unusual form - all these elements make the palace look peculiar. The interiors of the palace were decorated with an immaculate taste. They were adorned with molding and paintings.

What is curious about the decoration of the palace if the fact that it was done by the same architect who had constructed the building. Sakko was elaborately working out the drafts of the doors, the frames for the mirrors, fireplaces, furniture. That is how the integrity between the internal and external looks was gained.

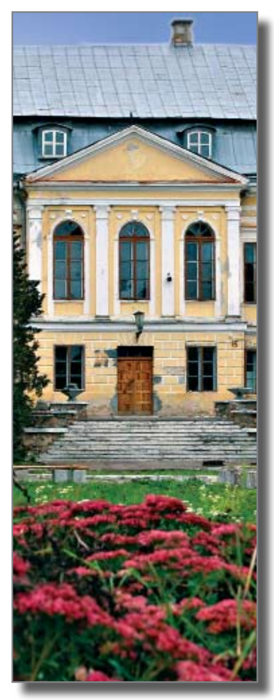
The landscape park occupied 12 ha of the territory. There were ash trees, maples, and lime trees there. Its thick greenery hid four ponds and a chapel-vault and a small hill was created in the southern part of the park which was called belvedere and which was used to overlook and admire the surrounding landscapes.

There is a romantic legend connected with the palace. They say that the daughter of the landowner fell in love with the groom. The enraged father ordered to drown the guy in the pond and to immure his daughter alive into one of the walls. The say that since then the ghost of the girl has been wandering around the house every night…

The Palace of the Valovichs is located not far from the Augustovsky Canal and can become a real attraction for tourists.







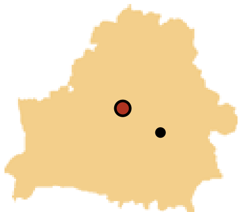
On this page (top to bottom):

The Valovichi's palace. The main building and two side galleries survived well. They make the palace look airy and gracefully.

If you take a look at the ancient walls you will believe easily that the ghosts live here.

At a bird's-eye view one can see the U-shape of the residence surrounded by the ponds and the remains of the old park.

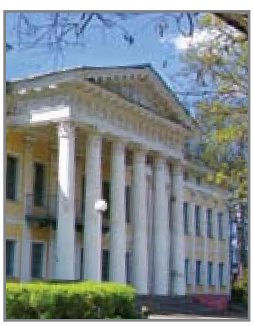
The main façade of the residence, adorned by the large windows and elegant decorative details.

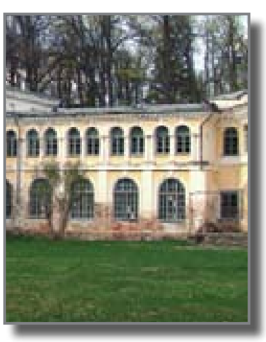


Zhilichi,
Kirovsk district,
Mogilev region,
Minsk - 189 км,
Mogilev - 114 км









One of the most impressive but little-known family residences is a palace in the village of Zhilichi. The prosperous businessman Ignatiy Bulgak decided to create the most beautiful residence in Belarus and he opted not to save on the palace construction. The building began in 1825 and it took about half a century to accomplish it. So the erection was completed by Edgar, the son of Ignatiy.

The palace was a pure masterpiece. Its main two-storied building has two adjoining short side-wings. There is a church in one of the wings and a tropical greenhouse in the other. The southern rare plants were nurtured here to plant them in summer in the park that was famous for its unbelievable beauty. The guests were also admiring the apple garden. If you look at it from above, you can tell the initials of the "Bulgakov" surname.

The interior of the palace was splendidly decorated. The magnificent ceiling molding remained intact till our days. It is genuinely unique as the ornament never repeats. There is a legend about the woman's face in the ornament of one of the rooms. They say that it is a portrait of the beloved lady of the owner, who was hidden from the onlookers. Ignatiy Bulgak had taste for music that's why all the rooms and halls of the palace have good acoustics. There used to be a secret level in the palace for the musicians to quietly sneak to the balconies and play music to the audience.

Unfortunately the paintings, expensive furniture, arms collection and the rich library that were once the pride of the owners are lost. But the destiny of the palace is more of a lucky one. It was never burnt or destroyed. The reconstruction is planned to begin in no time and the interiors, the greenhouse and the park will be restored.



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The Bulgak's residence impressed the coevals by its sizes, its territory amounts to 100 ha. The palace is one of the largest in Belarus and it looks really imposing.

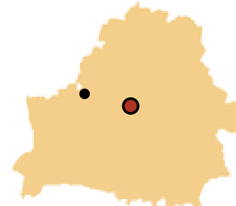
The building is decorated by numerous balconies. One of them was specially equipped to admire the exotic plants in the park.

The main entrance adorned by columns and posh molding. It was intended to impress the guests with its luxury and speak out the prosperity of the owners.

One of the legends tells that there are illimitable treasures of the Butrimovichi hidden in the residence. Numerous treasure-hunters don't give up the hope to find them.

The manor was once visited by the famous painter Napoleon Orda, who made a couple of sketches there. Today the residence is planned to be reconstructed in accordance with them.





Zhemyslavl',
Ivye district,
Grodno region,
Minsk - 138 км,
Grodno - 165 км

The manor of counts Umestovsky is the copy of the royal residence of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, "Lazenka" that belonged to the King Stanislaw August.

The history of this palace starts in 1828 when the nobleman Kazimir Umestovsky started the reconstruction of the wooden house. After the death of the owner in 1863 the palace was completed by his wife, the ambition lady Juzefa. On her order a famous architect Markoni copied the royal residence.

The accomplished palace was a classical two-storied building with a promenade ground on the flat roof. The belvedere arched windows covered the colored stained-glass windows. Over the front door on the four massive columns there was an open loggia with the mosaic floor that delighted the guests.

The inner layout was also copied from the "royal original". The rooms were heated by the elegant marble mantelpieces made in "Paris style". The ingenious parquet pattern and wonderful frescoes on the walls completed the interiors.

The residence was surrounded by the English park with an artificial pond and boat mooring.

The last owner of the palace, Wladyslaw Umestovsky submitted the manor for the scientific research base of Vilna University. All major constructions remained intact with time yet the interior preserved only some fragments of the ceiling molding. Today it is a pleasure to have a walk across the old park, admiring the beauties of the manor and imagining the lifestyle of the old times.







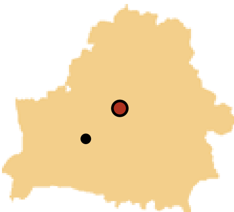


On this page (top to bottom):

The Rdutlovskie's palace is known for the intricate details and modest decoration of the façade.

The splendid colonnade survived up to our days.

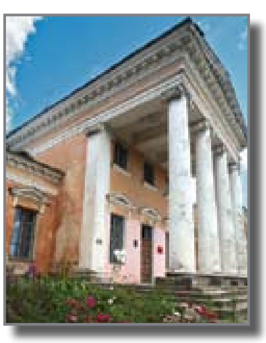
As one of the most honored Belarusian families Rdutlovskies were often visited by famous guests, such as Jerome Bonaparte, the brother of Napoleon Bonaparte.



Snov,
Nesvizh district,
Minsk region,
Minsk - 115 км







The Rdutlovskys' Palace is considered to be one of the best Classicism architecture monuments. It was built in 1827 on the bank of the river Snovenka on the project of the famous architect Tychetski. The owner of the palace was Kazimir Rdutlovsky, a Belarusian nobleman, Oxford graduate, Doctor of Philosophy. Rdutlovsky was known for marrying his own sister Teresa (the daughter of his father from the second marriage) and paying Vatican a big sum of money for the marriage to relative.

Though the building is enormous in its size (the length is about 140 m) the proportions and measures are kept there perfectly well. There is nothing in its decoration that would make the palace look too much pompously. The grace of the porticos with beautifully drawn capitals, laced projections with wide two-floors three-part windows, modest decorative panels of the arch end of the windows made the exterior graceful and magnificent.

The interior decoration of the residence is also modest and laconic - ceilings and walls are not decorated. Only the top part of the walls is adorned with the eaves. The coevals told that there were about 100 rooms in the palace and an enormous state hall with the total square of 100 sq.m. Along with an alcove, a big well-made glassed tile stove serve as a decoration. Six high windows overlooking the facades of the palace let in a lot of sunshine and made the interior look airy, opening the view on the village and the park.

The palace is situated in the fascinating place. The high bank of the river Snovenka allowed the landscape designers to fully realize their ideas. A romantic landscape park resembling a piece of the wild wood appeared around the residence. Inside the park there was a pond with several artificial islands of the fanciful form covered with shrubs and picturesque trees.

Famous people were frequent guests in the manor. According to some sources even the brother of Napoleon Bonaparte, Jérôme Bonaparte visited the residence.

The palace is really well-preserved. Surrounded by the thick greenery it draws a lot of tourists.



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The Rdutlovskie's palace is known for the intricate details and modest decoration of the façade.

The splendid colonnade survived up to our days.

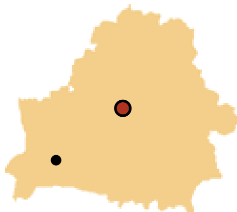
As one of the most honored Belarusian families Rdutlovskies were often visited by famous guests, such as Jerome Bonaparte, the brother of Napoleon Bonaparte.





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Large two-storied windows of the residence make the construction look colossal.

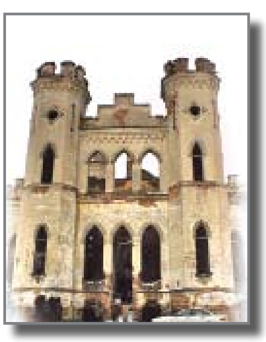
The manor preserved the spirit of time which made her the setting for the music video "The Russian evenings are so delightful".



Kossovo,
Ivatsevichi district,
Brest region,
Minsk - 223 км,
Brest - 152 км







The knight's dream – this was the poetic name of the palace in Kossovo. The toothed parapet round the building perimeter, faceted towers in the corner, wall loopholes, narrow lancet arch-shaped door and window apertures made the whole construction look like a real medieval fortress.

The construction began in 1830 on the order of the manufacturer, count Vandalin Puslovsky. The new owner restored as well the old house of the famous Belarusian, the leader of the national liberation movement (1794) Tadeusz Kosciuszko. The family residence of the revolutionary rises proudly on the background of the palace in the XIX century paintings.

Twelve castle towers symbolized the months of the year. It was built in the way that the sun could light every room for two and a half days all year round. The coevals said that the rooms were decorated in a special way on the days when they were lit with sunshine. The walls were covered with tapestry and carpets, the mantelpieces adorned by the carved marble and sculptures decorated the corners of the rooms. The palace in Kossovo was especially famous for its rich art and antiquities collection. There was also a splendid library that consisted of the thousands of volumes and manuscripts in the residence.

Lots of famous people, such as the painter and composer Napoleon Orda, the writers Henryk Sienkiewicz, Eliza Orzeszko, Vaclau Lastouski visited the prosperous manufacturers Puslovskys.

The residence consisted of 132 halls and none of them resembled the other. The balls were held in the White Hall, the Black Hall with the walls coated with the expensive black marble was intended for playing cards, the Pink Hall was designed for playing the musical instruments. The foyer had glass floor through which the visitors could see exotic fish swimming. There is a legend that tells that a tamed lion was strolling along the corridors of the manor at nights and guarding the owners.

The palace was surrounded by the wonderful terraced park. The number of the exotic plants species growing there amounted to 150, the fountains were sprinkling on the terraces, and the bright greenery was hiding lot of original sculptures.

Unfortunately the fire damaged the residence during the World War II and destroyed completely the house of Kosciuszko. Today it is being reconstructed and soon the tourists will be able to visit the museum and get acquainted with the history of the residence. There is also a plan to build a hotel, a bar and several conference-halls in the surroundings of the palace. Now the old walls are covered with scaffolding but the majesty of the palace still raises the imagination...



On this page (top to bottom):

The proud silhouette of the Puslovsskie's residence looks like a small castle from afar. The legend tells that there was 25-km long underground tunnel that connected the residence and the palace in Ruzhany.

The elements of decoration. Lancet windows and toothed walls remind of the Middle Age.

The residence in Kossovo is the only one monument on the territory of Belarus of the "regular" palace type with its geometric form and symmetric composition.





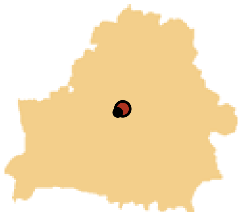


On this page (top to bottom):

The restored house of Tadeusz Kosciuszko - the leader of the national-liberation revolt of 1794, the national hero of the USA and Poland, the honored citizen of France.

The main façade with the remains of the terraced park, which once descended to the artificial lakes and the manor of Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

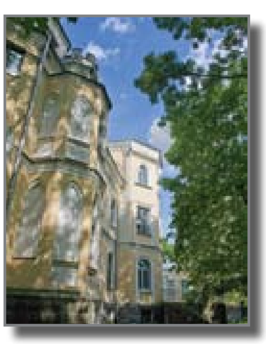
The towers of the residence, though being only a decorative element, looked formidable thanks to the loopholes and toothed walls.



Priluki,
Minsk district,
Minsk region,
Minsk - 5 км







The elegant gothic silhouette of Pryluki manor makes it one of the most attractive manors in Minsk region. During its long history the manor was owned by several famous families, such as Oginskie, Ivanovaskie, Gorvaty, Vishnevetskie… The latter left a legend that strikes imagination. They say that pan Tomash collected the mummies of his enemies, exposing them in the glass boxes for everyone to watch…

In 1875 the manor was turned to the residence of the Chapskie, who hadn't left it until 1917, with the beginning of the Soviet regime.

The major decoration of the manor was the stunning neogothic palace with the numerous towers, fortress merlons and Romanticism facades. The descriptions of the interiors tell that the rooms floored with the splendid parquet and decorated by the gold-plated molding were furnished by the rocaille pieces of furniture of Louis XV style, cupboards made of the rare species of wood and the Gdansk chests. There were two grand pianos, a piano and oak pieces of furniture covered with leather there. The walls were adorned by the paintings of Jan Mateiko, family portraits and the miniatures of XVIII-XIX centuries.

The entry gate is interesting in its design, represented by the lobed pylons with the balls on the top. The alley that starts form the gates leads the guests to the palace. The number of steps one had to take to reach the palace is 365, corresponding to the number of days in the year.

The alley as well as the residence is well-preserved. Today the Belarusian Scientific-Research Institute that is dealing with the protection of the plants is located in the manor.



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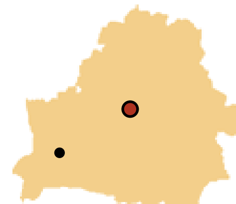
The main façade of the palace. It was once surrounded by terraces with the marble stairs, parapets, baths and the decorative watermill.

The sculptures of lions still safeguard the entrance.

The legend tells that there is a ghost in the manor. They say the wife of one of Vishnevetskie was killed for adultery and now her soul wanders round the ancient halls.

Emerik Gutten-Chapsky was the servant of the royal Russian court. He was adored in Saint-Petersburg for his immaculate taste and the love for beauty. These qualities showed in the exterior and interior of the manor in Priluki.





Pruzhany,
Brest region,
Minsk - 274 км,
Brest - 99 км

The historians define Shvykovskie manor as an Italian neoromantic villa. This is the only manor of this type on the territory of Belarus that was fully reconstructed.

In 1795 Ekaterina II presented her favourite, the field marshal of the Russian army, count Peter Rumyantsev-Zadunaiski with the manor Pruzhany, or as it was also called Pruzhanski Kluch. Later on the manor was handed down to the heirs – Niolai and then Mikhail Rumyantsev. In the documents of the early XIX century there are references to the new owner of the manor – Bernard Shvykovski.

The serious reconstruction of the manor took place in the ownership years of Valentin Shvykovski. In fact it gained the look that it has at the moment. The manor became famous for its greenhouse. There were more than 60 species of plants, mostly exotic ones, handled there in XIX century. The owners took pride in abutilons, azaleas, palm trees and lemon trees. In 1911 "Ziemia" magazine reporters noted: "The greenhouse of Shvykovskie was known all around Lithuania for its whole forest of orange trees, palm trees, myrtle trees, and lemon trees. Even the Radzivills don't possess anything of that kind".

The legend tells that Romanovy family was a frequent guest in the manor. While the Tsar was hunting in Belovezha, his spouse was amusing herself chatting with the mistress of the manor.

Today "Pruzhany small palace" is a museum with the recreated ancient interiors. Here one can see the graceful flower hall, the luxurious and fragrant greenhouse, the garden room and the hunting room, decorated in XIX century style.







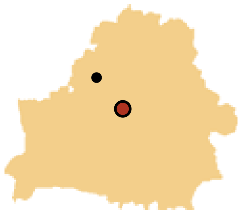
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The Shvykovskie's manor attracts visitors from various countries. More than 6000 tourists visit it annually.

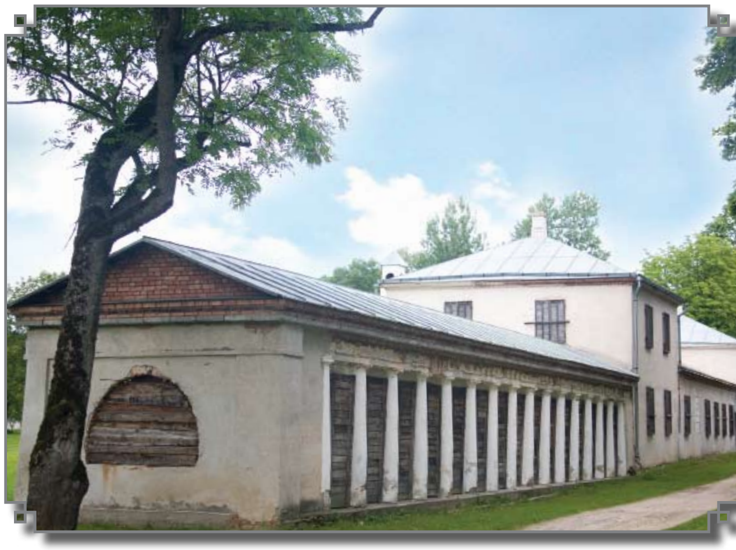
The guest house. Famous people of the XIX century were frequent guests in the manor, the last owner of which, Vera Kleinmikhel was the sister-in-law of Natalya Goncharova, the wife of Alexander Pushkin.

The fragment of the building. The windows of the ground floor are narrow and long, which makes the silhouette of the residence look elegant.

Real rarities are exhibited in the museum, located in the ancient halls of the "Pruzhany small palace". Among them "The Last Supper" – the wooden icon of the XVI century.



Zalesye,
Smorgon district,
Grodno region,
Minsk - 108 км,
Grodno - 257 км









The history of the manor in Zalesye is closely connected with the name of its famous owner, a talented diplomat and statesman and the author of the soulful polonaise "Farewell to the Homeland", the solemn yet still sentimental polish hymn "Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła" ("Poland has not yet perished", Michal Kleofas Oginski.

The manor first belonged to Frantishek, the uncle of the famous Belarusian. But having no children he handed the manor down to his nephew Michal. At that time the house in Zalesye, constructed in early XVII century was a wooden Baroque building. The owners were most proud of the French park with its originally cut short trees and shrubs.

In 1805 a new palace was erected on the order of the new owner. It was a fashionable Classicism building the main decoration of which was the Dorian portico in front of the main entrance and a high tower with the chime-clock, adorned by the sphere with bell. Despite its laconic decoration the palace had such a stunning look that it was called "The Northern Athens".

The main entry led to the spacious hall decorated by the frescos and then to the music salon, the pink sitting room, the billiard room, the dining room and some other rooms. The forged spiral stairs pathed the way to the second floor and the living rooms, library with the redwood Calvary, Vienna grand piano and the shelves full of volumes.

There was a small chapel next to the palace. To enlarge its inner space the builders used an interesting method of decoration the walls with the architectural frescos.

Michal tried to preserve most of the XVIII century constructions and to blend them into the new look of the manor. The French park was still delighting the eye of the owners and guests but there was an English landscape park created next to it. The architects enlarged the territory of the small lake and created several artificial islands for the boat walks. Close to the lake there was a botanic garden and behind the lake a wild beast show was located.

Unfortunately during the Worlds War I and World War II the territory of the manor was seriously damaged but its reconstruction is being planned at the moment. The tourists will be able to visit the Oginski museum where the musical parties with the old waltzes and minuets are planned to be held.

On this page (top to bottom):

The Baroque palatial ensemble was erected in Zalesye in the first half of the XVIII century. Some of the premises were then included into the ensemble of the XIX century.

The walls of the original chapel of the Oginskie decorated with the architectural frescos.

The lake with the artificial islands where the owners of the manor used to take romantic boat walks.

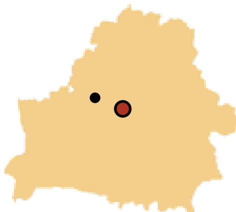




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The manor in Zalesea was an inspiration for Mikhal Oginsky. It was here, where the premiere of the polonaise "Farewell to the Homeland" took place and where lots of the piano pieces, marches, mazurkas, minuets, romances and waltzes were composed.

The general view of the manor. The manor had the original look thanks to the elegance of the whole construction and to the countless pavilions and arbors, built for the intimate meetings and intellectual conversations.



Volozhin,
Minsk region,
Minsk - 75 км









Volozhin residence of the Tyshkevichs is an architectural monument of Classicism. The construction of the residence began in 1803 when count Joseph (Yuseph) Tyshkevich, the Vilnius head, bought the town of Volozhin for 100 thousand zlotys.

The palace and park ensemble was erected in conformance with the project of the architect Kossakovsky. The historic place was chosen for the construction – a site where the medieval castle used to be located.

Three years later a striking residence was appeared in the center of Volozhin. A two-storied greenhouse with a spherical dome in the palace centre boasted of orange trees, warm-requiring palm trees and other exotic plants. At the rear side of the palace the landscape park laid as early as in the XII century descended towards the river. It was a place where it was nice to hide from a hot afternoon in the shade of the trees.

The palace complex consisted of three two-storied buildings. The palace architecture was typical for the classicism – well-developed porticoes, skillfully traced decorative elements, laconic apertures framing. There was nothing irrelevant in th décor, all the elements mixed harmonically. The central part of the building is the most elegant one. It is adorned with the columns and molding.

The Palace of the Tyshkevichs' survived well to our times and today it crowns the old town of Volozhin.

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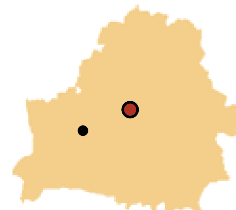
The secret of the Volozhin palace beauty is in its proportions and symmetry.

The main entrance of the palace, framed by the classic columns.

The fragment of the building. The elegance a taste show everywhere, but especially in the decoration.

The side façade of the palace.





Shchersy,
Novogrudok district,
Grodno region,
Minsk - 140 км,
Grodno - 195 км

The main fronton of the palace in Shchersy was once decorated with the meaningful words "Peace and Freedom". The idea to write these words on the façade belonged to Ierakhim Khreptovich on whose order the palace was built in 1770-1776. Khreptovich was an outstanding person, a publicist, a poet, a historian. He changed statute labour to the labour rent in his lands and supported the peasants in various ways.

The Khreptovichis' palace, constructed according to the project of the Italian architects Sakko and Spampani, became a vivid example of the late Baroque and early Classicism styles. The building was a combination of the gorgeous forms and a moderate decoration. It was surrounded by the English landscape park with the cascade of the artificial lakes. The pedigree horses were bred here. But the palace was most famous for its library.

The book collection of the Khreptovichi amounted to 20 thousand volumes which made it one of the largest collections in Eastern Europe. It included the ancient manuscripts, the princely birth certificates, and the geographic maps. The legend tells that the library in Shchersy was based on the funds of the Jesu Society that was annihilated in XVIII century. Many famous scientists and writers worked in the archive in various periods – Adam Mitskevich, Jan Chechet, Vladislav Syrokomlya.

During the World War I the manor was seriously damaged with only the basements remaining from the central and the eastern parts. But the building of the library remained practically intact.







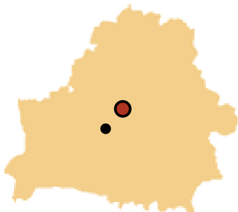
On this page (top to bottom):

The Khreptovichi's manor in Shchersy attracted the most educated and prominent people of the XIX century.

The building of the library that remained intact. Several years ago it was chosen as the setting for the historical film "The cursed cozy house".

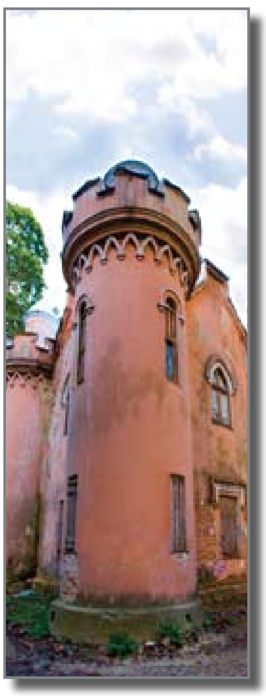
The columns that were once adorning the main entrance.

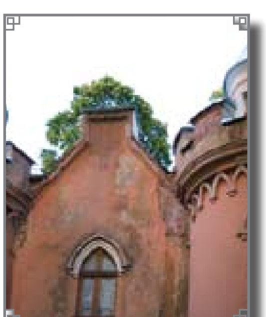
The general look of the library. Adam Mickiewicz, Yan Chehyot and Wladyslaw Syrokomlya were frequent guests here.



Stankovo,
Dzerzhinsk district,
Minsk region,
Minsk - 40 км







The old manor in Stankovo is a real tourist stronghold for the dreamers and the lovers. The building was constructed in 1880 on the order of Emirik Gutten-Chapski in the canons of Romanticism with the use of the medieval architecture elements. The asymmetric palace is decorated with the arch door and window apertures, lobed towers-pylons and a stunning eight-squared two-level tower, looking like an ancient fortification. There were 4 balconies on the second floor that overlooked the panorama of the park.

The guests were always attracted by the" so-called "Skarbnitsa" or "Skarbchik" – a small two-storied pavilion, adorned by the corner towers with attenuate gothic roof that looked like a small castle from a fairy tale. Gutten-Chapski count kept there his treasures such as his priceless numismatic collections, enormous library that counted thousands of rare volumes, the collection of paintings and ancient etchings. But the collection of the masons' signs and the artifacts found during the Stankovo burial hill diggings were the most valuable.

The visitors were absolutely impressed by the palace park with its 500 species of the trees. The owners of the manor used to walk along the shadowy alleys in the boscage of the white poplars, black walnuts and the Siberian fir.

Unfortunately the palace that was the setting for the movie "Dubrosky" didn't manage to survive till our days. But the guests are welcome to "Skarbnitsa", the entry gate and lots of the premises of the once luxurious manor of the counts Gutten-Chapskie.



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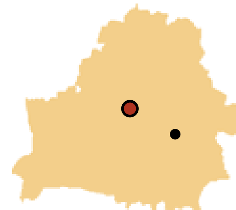
The rotunda-like arbor situated on the lake shore was one of the attractions of the manor. It was destined for the private rest and watching the landscape on the other side of the lake.

One of the "skarbnitsa's" towers with the decorative teeth and long medieval windows.

The decoration of the "skarbnitsa" included many ornate details.

The one-storied storehouse was built in 1897 from the local rabble stone, dressed from the outer side; the narrow windows and the arch are framed with the bricks.





Krasny Bereg,
Zhlobin district,
Gomel region,
Minsk - 188 км,
Gomel - 114 км

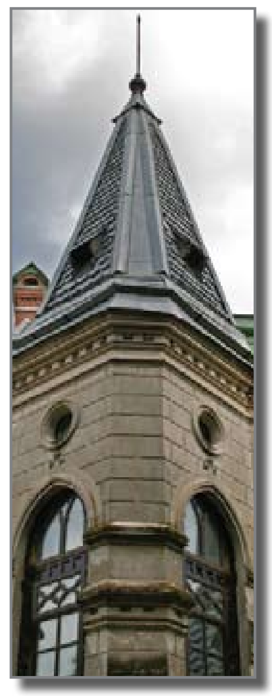
The Red Bank mansion widely known as the Gatovsky's manor attracts lots of admiring glances. The ensemble that remained almost intact to our times was constructed in the second half of the XIX century on the order of engineering lieutenant General Mikhail Gatovsky.

The complex consists of a palace, a wing, some household constructions and a wonderful park. The trees for the park were chosen according to the colour of their leaves in autumn. Another decoration of the park is canal with three bridges across it that leads to the river.

The palace was built in 1890-1893 combining two architectural styles – Neogothic and Neo-Renaissance. The tower marquees, bay windows, attic roofs and dormer windows imbue the building with special fascination. An original combination of red-brick and plastered white walls makes the palace exterior look impressive.

The palace inner layout is a suite of rooms finished in various styles – Roman, Arabian, Renaissance, and French of the times of Louis XVI. Every interior detail was elaborately thought over including the lamps, bronze statuettes, Venetian cut glass, English Faience, French porcelain. The luxury interior of the palace abounds in moldings, refined carving and friezes, wall decorations.

The art collection belonging to the manor owners included the masterpieces by Aivazovsky, Semiradsky and other talented artists (mainly of the XIX century).





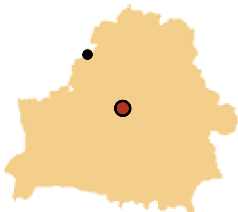


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The Gatovsky's manor is included into the tourist route "the Golden circle of the Gomel region". With its fascinating beauty the Krasny Bereg manor could serve as an illustration in the fairytales book.

One of the neogothic towers reminds of the medieval Germany.

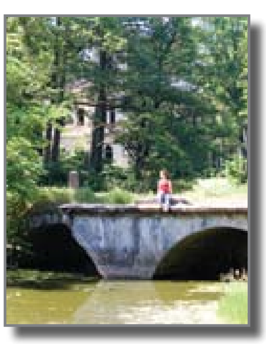
The decoration of the building is a complicated ornament of the numerous details and each of them was worked out elaborately.



Lyntupy,
Postavy district,
Vitebsk region,
Minsk - 170 км,
Vitebsk - 265 км







The romantic oreol covers the palace of Bishevskie in Lyntupy. In was built in the first half of the XIX century by Juzef Bishevski. The say that the young nobleman was in love with an actress who agreed to marry him if he constructed a palace for her. The magnificent residence was soon completed but the young and feather-brained beauty changed her mind.

The palace and park ensemble still delights with its architecture: a two-storied building is situated on the island surrounded by the ponds, connected by the canals. The Italian Classicism building is decorated by the slender columns and posh molding.

The territory of the manor is divided into two parts. The front part is occupied by the side wing, the stone arch bridge, a small but elegant chapel and the quiet romantic ponds. There are several one-storied constructions in the premises hidden behind the house that remained intact. The smokery tower presents the special interest thanks to its pseudo-gothic architecture with the loophole windows. It harmonizes with the bridge and makes the impression of the medieval times with its noble knights and fair ladies.

The old poetic park deserves special attention. The rare species of plants that were once nurtured by the owners are preserved here. The thick greenery frames the palace of the Bishevskie that rises like the symbol of the unanswered love - fascinating and lonely.



On this page (top to bottom):

The splendid palace, decorated by the colonnades and arcades is the symbol of the unanswered love. According to the architect's idea, the manor in Lyntupy had to be unique. Lots of details and the decoration harmonized creating the wholesome image.

The stone arch bridge looks as a medieval one. The gothic smoker tower is hiding in the greenery.

On the next page:

The Belarusian palaces on the etching of Napoleon Orda.



Ministry for Sports and Tourism
of the Republic of Belarus

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of the Republic of Belarus

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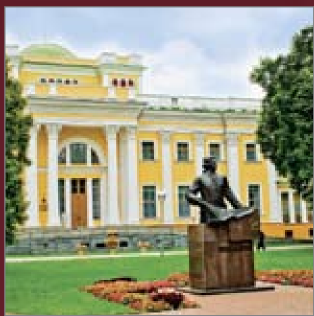
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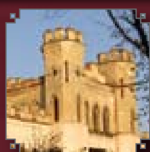
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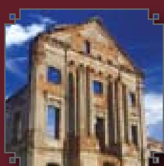
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